

American and Mexican citizens travel each year to see where this epic battle between America and Mexico was fought. History records that approximately 184 Americans and over 600 Mexicans gave their lives in the battle. Each country fought valiantly, driven by a sincere love for their nations.

At the Alamo, two known battle flags were flown. History teaches us that one flag was destroyed, and the other, the battle flag of the New Orleans' Greys militia unit, was captured by the Mexican leader Santa Anna. The battle flag was then sent to Mexico City as proof that the Alamo had been receiving help from rebel forces in America, and as proof to Mexico that Santa Anna had captured the Alamo.

This flag is known to exist and has been seen within the last decade by legitimate sources. It is reported to be in the same basic condition as when it was originally sent to Mexico so many years ago.

This valued and treasured artifact of Mexican and American history needs to be returned to its rightful place, the Alamo, so it can be displayed as a memorial tribute to the men who fought and died for their Nations' beliefs.

At present, the Texas State Legislature has been authorized to pursue the loan or trade of three Mexican flags captured at the subsequent battle of San Jacinto in return for the Alamo flag, and also has funding set aside to assist in the restoration and preservation of the flag upon its return.

At no previous time in history have our two nations enjoyed a better economic relationship

with respect to trade and diplomatic relations. I ask that my colleagues and fellow Americans take this opportunity to reach out to our friends in Mexico, to request that the battle flag be returned to its rightful place at the Alamo.

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INTRODUCTION OF A BILL AMENDING THE RAILWAY LABOR ACT ON BEHALF OF AIRLINE PILOTS ENGAGED IN FOREIGN FLYING

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 6, 1997*

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to reintroduce a bill which was pending before the 104th Congress concerning the applicability of the Railway Labor Act to flight crews of United States air carriers engaged in flight operations outside the United States.

Mr. Speaker, the bill I and my colleagues have reintroduced clarifies the intent of Congress that the RLA covers the collective bargaining right of flight deck crew members employed by U.S. air carriers when they are based overseas or are performing their duties exclusively outside the United States.

Historically, airlines and the bargaining representative of their pilots have negotiated and honored numerous agreements governing their overseas operations. It is our contention

that coverage of these agreements is currently available under existing law, namely the RLA. However, there have been at least two conflicting Federal court decisions over the past two decades on the issue of the enforceability of such agreements under the RLA. The opinions in these cases acknowledge that Congress has the power to apply its laws in extraterritorial circumstances, but it must do so expressly; and the courts have held that in the case of the RLA the intent of Congress to do so has not been clearly expressed.

The legislation introduced today will once and for all clarify existing law. Doing so would confirm that the terms and conditions of the overseas flight operations of U.S. airlines are subject to negotiation between their managements and the selected bargaining representatives of their pilots under the same statutory authority as the terms and conditions of their domestic flying.

The legislation does not impose our labor laws on foreign countries; it does not cover employees providing ground and related services for U.S. carriers exclusively in foreign countries; it does not preclude negotiation of wages and terms and conditions of employment tailored to flight deck crew members that perform overseas operations.

If any of my colleagues are interested in becoming cosponsors of this important legislation, or if you have any questions, please call me or Mrs. Kyle on my staff at extension 53452.